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COMOR-M-14

COMMITTEE ON OVERHEAD RECONNAISSANCE

Minutes of Meeting Held in Room 429
Matomic Building, Central Intelligence Agency
at 2:30 p.m., 21 February 1961

PRESIDING

James Q. Reber
Chairman

MEMBERS PRESENT

Col. L. E. May, USAF
Deputy Chairman

Mr. H. M. Wiedemann, State

Mr. H. C. Brown, OSD

Col. T. L. Fisher, JCS

Col. J. W. Boucher, OACSI

Cdr. H. D. Myles, ONI

Col. J. W. Winterbottom, AFCIN

[redacted] NSA

[redacted] CIA

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CONSULTANTS PRESENT

Mr. R. E. Adcock, OSD

Lt. Col. J. W. Morris, OACSI

Mr. L. R. Pitt, ONI

Lt. Col. K. R. Duncan, AFCIN

Maj. G. S. Chapman, AFCIN

Maj. S. J. Moran, AFCIN

Capt. K. F. Perske, AFCIN

[redacted]

Mr. F. A. Voigt, CIA

[redacted]

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* First part only

Approval of Minutes

1. The minutes for 31 January 1961, 6 February 1961, and 10 February 1961 (COMOR-M-11, 12, 13 respectively) were approved.

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This document contains information
referring to Project ARGON

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BYEMAN System

2. The Committee agreed that the proposal of operations security (SO/DPD) as set forth in [REDACTED] was satisfactory, it being understood that the procedures outlined in the paper would permit prompt and secure transmission of papers dealing with operational information as such is required to fulfill the COMOR responsibilities.

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3. The Chairman noted that the following procedures would be followed in the transmission of various materials of interest to the Committee:

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Satellite Requirements

4. The Air Force representative, Col. J. M. Winterbottom, briefed the Committee on the views of the Air Force on the national needs for requirements, feedback, processing and dissemination, in connection with satellite photography.

5. At his request the Committee agreed that guidance for any up-coming SAMOS shot should embrace the current list of highest priority targets for the USSR (COMOR-D-3, 18 August 1960, [REDACTED] the consolidated list of suspect location of missile activity (COMOR-D-21 Final, 19 December 1960, [REDACTED] and the highest priority target list for ChiCom (COMOR-D-2/3, 20 February 1961).

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6. As a means of proceeding on the revision of highest priority requirements for satellite photography and specifically for future T-KH photography, the Committee agreed to review critically (with corrections, deletions, and additions) the machine listing, Tabs 1 and 1A, as distributed by the Air Force. At the conclusion of each agency's revision of the listing, the results will be correlated and submitted for COMOR approval.

Review of Sanitization of SAM Sites Taken from T-KH Materials

7. Major Chapman, at the request of the Air Force representative, briefed the Committee on the performance in the sanitized release of SAM site information from T-KH photography on Shots 9009 and 9013 in pursuance of the procedure established by the COMOR (See COMOR-m-4, [redacted], 4 November 1960, paragraph 2 and COMOR-D-23/1, [redacted] Revised and Final, 7 November 1960). Forty-seven sites have been released at the SECRET NOFORN level under this procedure. No more than six were released at any one time, and in each case collateral information on other subjects was included. These releases took place from early October until early February in thirteen separate messages. Four of these messages were clustered near the end of January and the balance in mid October. It was the view of the Committee members that no fabricated reports were necessary on these forty-seven cases and that the releases had been in accordance with the COMOR procedure. It was agreed that on the next occasion where SAM's are identified in preliminary reporting, the Chairman would at the earliest time convene the members or their representatives to examine the scope of the releases contemplated, the possibilities of staging releases over a longer time, and to identify the critical cases which might require immediate fabrication of reports as cover.

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Effect of Downgrading on [redacted] Cartographic Materials

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8. [redacted] ORR/CIA, called attention to the fact that under the USIB decision on downgrading [redacted] cartography hitherto marked SECRET would now be required to be marked SECRET NOFORN.

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9. It was the conclusion of the Committee that the sanitization procedure, set forth in the manual whereby [redacted] cartography could be disseminated on a SECRET basis, was more restrictive than the downgrading decision and that, therefore, a continuation of past practice would be in keeping with the spirit of the USIB decision. Accordingly, the provision of the Sanitization Manual was reaffirmed.

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ChiCom Target Listing

10. The Chairman called attention to the recent issuance of the National Intelligence Interpretation Center of the SECRET version of the ChiCom target machine listing and the instructions and maps set forth in [redacted] 16 February 1961. He stated that these documents were the COMOR's current guidance and reference work for the community; previous issues should be destroyed. The Chairman also called attention to a document just distributed (COMOR-D-2/3, 20 February 1961), which brings together in one place both the U. S. and the ChiNat's highest priority targets for ChiCom.

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Handling of ARGON Materials (Reference COMOR-D-31, 3 January 1961, [redacted] and COMOR-M-9, 5 January 1961, [redacted])

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11. The Chairman reported that [redacted] TSO/CIA, and he had received word from higher authority that the plans to handle ARGON materials when available within the T-KH Security System (rather than in a separate compartment) had been approved. Accordingly, when ARGON materials become available, the participating agencies may make ARGON materials available to T-KH certified personnel on a "must know" basis.

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ADDENDUM

12. The Chairman reports by this Addendum that he discussed with General Cabell whether the pressure on the handling of ZEBUB material had been alleviated. General Cabell had replied in the negative. The Chairman proposes for consideration of the COMOR that on the occasion of the receipt of new ZEBUB material, he will convene the members or their representatives to identify those materials which are urgently needed by military units and to expedite their release on a SECRET NOFORN basis.

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[redacted]
JAMES Q. REBER

Chairman

Committee on Overhead Reconnaissance

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3--OSD 9, 10--AFCIN TCO
4--JCS TCO 11, 12--NSA TCO
5--OACSI TCO

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Copy 1--DDP
13--AC/DPD
14--DDI(P) TCO
15--OCI TCO
16--OSI TCO
17--ORR TCO
18--Director, PIC
19--CIA TSO
20, 21--C/DMD/PIC
22--DDP TCO
23--IO/Ops/DPD
24--SO/DPD
25, 27--C/SRS/DPD/DDP

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